

Cool Bug Facts

- *Three out of four creatures on the planet are insects; they outnumber all other creatures.
- *Insects began to inhabit the earth 150 million years before dinosaurs.
- *Ants can lift over 50 times their weight.
- *Fleas can jump the equivalent of a football field.
- *Insects have adapted to live and survive among all groups of organisms.
- *Insects have adapted to live in all types of habitats except for the ocean.
- *Hissing cockroaches are sometimes used as live jewelry
- *The Mayfly has one of the shortest life spans. Adults only live for a few hours after emerging from the water.
- *The queen termite lives 10-15 years.
- *For every human there are one million ants.
- * The weight of all Americans is less than one fiftieth of the insects, earthworms, and spiders in the United States.
- * Mother Dung Beetles tenderly care for their young by cleaning away toxic molds and fungi off the dung balls where her larva lives and feasts.
- * A cockroach's head will live and respond for at least 12 hours after the animal has been decapitated.
- * The exoskeleton of a scorpion, made of chitin, reflects back ultraviolet rays and will glow pink or green under the moonlight or a black light. Fossilized scorpions still glow under ultraviolet after 300 million years.
- *Scorpions can live for more than a year without eating.
- *All insects are bugs but not all bugs are insects. An Insect has three body parts; a head, thorax, and abdomen. Insects have six legs and two antennae. Spiders and Scorpions have eight legs and are not considered insects.
- *Mites and Ticks are Arachnids (they have eight legs) and are related to the Spider and Scorpion.
- *Scientists believe the Mayfly is the most primitive present-day insect around. These insects are the most popular models for artificial flies.
- *Dragonflies keep their wings spread out when at rest. Most Damselflies hold their wings together above their backs when they rest. They both eat mosquitoes are good to have around.
- *You will never get bit by a male mosquito. Only the females bite.
- *Mosquitoes must dilute the blood of their victim with their saliva before they can drink it. It is the saliva that causes the bite to itch.

*Caterpillars aren't the only ones to spin cocoons. Flea larvae pupate in a silken cocoon on the ground before turning into a real pest.

*Lightningbugs or Fireflies are not true bugs or flies. They are actually beetles.

*Scientists recently discovered that insects such as cockroaches and honeybees make collective decisions and use voting and quorums to help decide where to make their next home.

*Beetles are one of the most popular pets in Japan and can be bought in many department stores!

*Houseflies find sugar with their feet, which are 10 million times more sensitive than human tongues.

*Ticks can grow from the size of a grain of rice to the size of a marble.

*Approximately 2,000 silkworm cocoons are needed to produce one pound of silk.

*While gathering food, a bee may fly up to 60 miles in one day.

*Mexican Jumping Beans, sometimes sold commercially, actually have a caterpillar of a bean moth inside.

*It takes about one hundred Monarch Butterflies to weigh an ounce.

*Wasps feeding on fermenting juice have been known to get 'drunk' and pass out.

*The queen of a certain termite species can lay 40,000 eggs per day.

*Honeybees have to make about ten million trips to collect enough nectar for production of one pound of honey.

*Blow flies are the first kind of insect attracted to an animal carcass following death.

*To survive the cold of winter months, many insects replace their body water with a chemical called glycerol, which acts as an "antifreeze" against the temperatures.

*There are nearly as many species of ants (8,800) as there are species of birds (9,000) in the world.

*The male silk moth is estimated to "smell" chemicals of female silk moths in the air at the ratio of a few hundred molecules among 25 quintillion (25,000,000,000,000,000) molecules in a cubic centimeter of air.

*Male mosquitoes do not bite humans, but rather live on plant juices and other natural liquids from plants and decomposing organic material.

*About one-third of all insect species are carnivorous, and most hunt for their food rather than eating decaying meat or dung.

*The oldest known fossil of an insect is a Springtail and dates back 400 million years.

Sources:

Cool Bug Stuff <http://coolbugstuff.com/facts.php>

National Museum of Natural History http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmnh/buginfo/funfacts.htm

University of Wisconsin-Madison Entomology Department <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu>